

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 8 to 32, of the substitute specification as follows:

--Figure 4 shows another method, which is used for checking the filter coefficients for filter 5 saved in memory 8. Errors may occur not only during the transmission of data from the control unit to interface 9, but also in the memory 8. For this purpose, every time filter coefficients are called from memory 8, a check is performed to determine whether the filter coefficients agree with the also saved error detection bits, in particular parity bits. Whenever a deviation is determined here, the erroneous coefficient is retransmitted from control unit 10 to signal processing device 1. Figure 4 shows a method to determine whether the number of such errors within a monitoring period, for example, 250 filtering cycles, exceeds a threshold value. For this purpose, the method illustrated in Figure 4 is started in step 200 depending on the predefined number of filtering cycles, or ignition cycles of the internal combustion engine. After the start in block 200, step 201 follows, in which the number of errors is compared to a predefined threshold value. The error count is incremented whenever, upon reading a filter coefficient from memory 8, a disagreement between the saved filter coefficient and the corresponding parity bit is determined. If the number of errors is greater than the threshold value, step 202 follows step 201. In step 202, an indicator is set to show that the number of errors has exceeded the threshold value. If in step 201 the number of errors is still less than the threshold value, step 203 follows step 201. In step 203, it is determined whether the number of errors is less than a second threshold value. The second threshold value is, of course, less than the threshold value checked in step 201. In block 203, it is preferably determined that absolutely no errors occurred in the most recent monitoring period. If this is the case, step ~~[[202]]~~ 203 is followed by step 204, in which the indicator showing an error is reset. If it was not determined in block 203 that the number of errors is less than a second threshold value or that absolutely no errors occurred during the monitoring period, step 203 is directly followed by step 205, in which the method of Figure 4 is terminated. Steps 202, 204 are also followed by step 205, in which the method is terminated.--